

House File 308 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 308
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 116)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act modifying certain duties of the county commissioner of
2 elections and voter registration deadlines.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 47.2, subsection 5, Code 2013, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 5. The office of county auditor or county commissioner
4 of elections in each county shall be open for at least eight
5 hours on the Saturday preceding a ~~general election~~, primary
6 election, and on the two Saturdays preceding a general election
7 or special election called by the governor for the purpose
8 of receiving absentee ballots and conducting other official
9 business relating to the election.

10 Sec. 2. Section 48A.9, subsection 1, Code 2013, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 1. Registration closes at 5:00 p.m. eleven days before each
13 election ~~except primary and general elections. For primary and~~
14 ~~general elections, registration closes at 5:00 p.m. ten days~~
15 ~~before the election.~~ An eligible elector may register during
16 the time registration is closed in the elector's precinct but
17 the registration shall not become effective until registration
18 opens again in the elector's precinct, except as otherwise
19 provided in section 48A.7A.

20 Sec. 3. Section 48A.27, subsection 4, paragraph c,
21 subparagraph (2), Code 2013, is amended to read as follows:

22 (2) The notice shall contain a statement in substantially
23 the following form:

24 Information received from the United States postal service
25 indicates that you are no longer a resident of, and therefore
26 not eligible to vote in (name of county) County, Iowa. If this
27 information is not correct, and you still live in (name of
28 county) County, please complete and mail the attached postage
29 paid card at least ~~ten days before the primary or general~~
30 ~~election and at least~~ eleven days before any other election at
31 which you wish to vote. If the information is correct and you
32 have moved, please contact a local official in your new area
33 for assistance in registering there. If you do not mail in
34 the card, you may be required to show identification before
35 being allowed to vote in (name of county) County. If you do not

1 return the card, and you do not vote in an election in (name
2 of county) County, Iowa, on or before (date of second general
3 election following the date of the notice) your name will be
4 removed from the list of voters in that county.

5 Sec. 4. Section 48A.29, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
6 2013, is amended to read as follows:

7 b. The notice shall contain a statement in substantially the
8 following form:

9 Information received from the United States postal service
10 indicates that you are no longer a resident of (residence
11 address) in (name of county) County, Iowa. If this information
12 is not correct, and you still live in (name of county) County,
13 please complete and mail the attached postage paid card at
14 ~~least ten days before the primary or general election and at~~
15 ~~least~~ eleven days before any ~~other~~ election at which you wish
16 to vote. If the information is correct, and you have moved,
17 please contact a local official in your new area for assistance
18 in registering there. If you do not mail in the card, you may
19 be required to show identification before being allowed to vote
20 in (name of county) County. If you do not return the card, and
21 you do not vote in some election in (name of county) County,
22 Iowa, on or before (date of second general election following
23 the date of the notice) your name will be removed from the list
24 of voters in that county.

25 Sec. 5. Section 48A.29, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code
26 2013, is amended to read as follows:

27 b. The notice shall contain a statement in substantially the
28 following form:

29 Information received by this office indicates that you are no
30 longer a resident of (residence address) in (name of county)
31 County, Iowa. If the information is not correct, and you still
32 live at that address, please complete and mail the attached
33 postage paid card at ~~least ten days before the primary or~~
34 ~~general election and at least~~ eleven days before any ~~other~~
35 election at which you wish to vote. If the information is

1 correct, and you have moved within the county, you may update
2 your registration by listing your new address on the card and
3 mailing it back. If you have moved outside the county, please
4 contact a local official in your new area for assistance in
5 registering there. If you do not mail in the card, you may be
6 required to show identification before being allowed to vote in
7 (name of county) County. If you do not return the card, and you
8 do not vote in some election in (name of county) County, Iowa,
9 on or before (date of second general election following the
10 date of the notice) your name will be removed from the list of
11 registered voters in that county.

12 EXPLANATION

13 This bill modifies certain duties of the county commissioner
14 of elections and voter registration deadlines. The bill
15 requires the office of a county commissioner of elections to be
16 open for at least eight hours on the two Saturdays preceding
17 a general election. Under current law the requirement only
18 extends to the Saturday before a general election. The bill
19 further requires that voter registration closes at 5:00 p.m.
20 11 days before all elections. The bill also makes conforming
21 changes. Current law requires that voter registration for
22 primary and general elections close at 5:00 p.m. 10 days before
23 those elections.